

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer readable medium having instructions for processing information, the instructions comprising:

a business entity module defining a structure of business entities exchanged in an action sequence;

an entity action module defining the action sequence of related actions that can be performed on the business entities; and

a transaction document module defining transactions documents and creating a corresponding transaction document based on the business entity module and the action sequence.

2. The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the instructions further comprise:

a correlation module defining how each of the entities are related and recorded in a history.

3. The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the instructions further comprise:

a version identifier identifying a particular version of the business entity module, the action sequence and the transaction document module.

4. The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the instructions further comprise:

a routing module defining routing rules for each of the transaction documents.

5. A method for establishing a communication protocol between a first computer and a second computer, comprising:

identifying a plurality of documents associated with a transaction;  
defining an action sequence for the plurality of documents; and  
creating one of the plurality of documents based on the action sequence.

6. The method of claim 5 and further comprising:

checking a version identifier to see if the first computer and second computer include the same version of a process template related to the action sequence.

7. The method of claim 6 and further comprising;

requesting a copy of the process template with the second computer if the second computer does not include the same version of the process template.

8. The method of claim 5 and further comprising:

rendering a document based on a set of rendering rules for each of the documents.

9. The method of claim 5 and further comprising:

defining actions that can be performed on each of the documents.

10. The method of claim 9 and further comprising:  
creating one of the documents based on a relationship between the first computer and the second computer.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein the first computer is associated with a supplier and the second computer is associated with a customer.
12. The method of claim 5 and further comprising:  
routing the documents from the first computer to the second computer based on routing rules.
13. The method of claim 5 and further comprising:  
integrating information in each of the documents into an application on one of the first computer and the second computer.
14. A business network, comprising:  
a first computer having a memory including a process template, the process template comprising:  
a business entity module defining a structure of business entities exchanged in an action sequence;  
an entity action module defining the action sequence of related actions that can

be performed on the business entities;  
and

a transaction document module defining transaction documents and creating a corresponding document based on the business entities module and the action sequence; and

a second computer having a memory including a copy of the process template and performing actions based on the process template and a relationship between the first computer and the second computer.

15. The network of claim 14, wherein the process template further comprises:

a correlation module defining how each of the entities are related and recorded in a history.

16. The network of claim 14, wherein the process template further comprises:

a version identifier identifying a particular version of the business entity module, the action sequence and the transaction document module.

17. The network of claim 16, wherein the second computer is adapted to check the version identifier to see if the particular version of the process template is stored thereon and request a new copy of

the particular version of the process template if the second computer does not include the particular version of the process template.

18. The network of claim 14, wherein the process template further comprises:

a routing module defining routing rules for each of the transaction documents.

19. The network of claim 14, wherein the relationship includes the first computer being associated with a supplier and the second computer being associated with a customer.